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Thirtieth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer
Quito, 5–9 November 2018

Issues that the Secretariat would like to bring to the attention of the parties

Note by the Secretariat

1. The present note summarizes issues of relevance to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and the activities that have taken place or will take place from May to December 2018 that the Secretariat wishes to bring to the attention of the parties.

I. Activities related to requests by the parties

A. Safety standards

2. In line with decision XXIX/11 on safety standards, in which the parties requested the Secretariat to hold regular consultations with the relevant standards bodies with a view to providing, with regard to standards for flammable low-global-warming-potential refrigerants, a tabular overview of relevant safety standards, the Secretariat has prepared, in consultation with those bodies and with experts on standards, a first version of the requested tabular overview, which is provided in an information document for the consideration of the parties (UNEP/OzL.Pro.30/INF/3).

3. The Secretariat would appreciate receiving comments from parties and other stakeholders on the tabular overview as provided in the information document, with a view to taking them into account in the further development of the overview.

B. Harmonized System codes for hydrofluorocarbons by the Harmonized System Committee of the World Customs Organization

4. By decision XXVI/8, on measures to facilitate the monitoring of trade in hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) and substituting substances, the parties, among other things, requested the Secretariat to liaise with the World Customs Organization (WCO) to examine the possibility of designating individual harmonized system (HS) codes for the most commonly traded fluorinated substitutes for HCFCs and chlorofluorocarbons in order to prevent illegal trade in those substances. Since 2015, the Secretariat has been working closely with WCO to designate new HS codes for hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) controlled under the Kigali Amendment and mixtures containing HFCs. The Secretariat, in consultation with WCO, is expected to issue a note in October 2018 on recommended new HS codes for the information of the parties.

II. Other secretariat activities

A. Environment Management Group

5. The Secretariat has continued to engage with the Environment Management Group (EMG) on issues relevant to the ozone treaties.[1] To that end, the Secretariat has reviewed and provided feedback on the latest draft of a document entitled "Moving towards a common approach to environmental and social standards for UN programming". The document, which has been a key project of EMG since 2016, outlines elements of a proposed common approach to social and environmental standards and safeguard requirements for the work of United Nations entities.

6. The Secretariat will participate via teleconference in the technical and senior segments of the EMG Senior Officials Meeting, to be held on 17 and 24 September 2018 respectively.

B. Gender mainstreaming

7. In recognition of the importance of gender equality for the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Secretariat is undertaking an initial review of gender mainstreaming in the work of the ozone treaties.

8. The review takes into account the recent "Desk study for the evaluation of gender mainstreaming in the Montreal Protocol projects and policies" prepared by the secretariat of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/81/9) and the recent decision 81/7 of the Fund's Executive Committee on the subject and involves an assessment of the extent of gender mainstreaming in all aspects of the ozone treaties' operations, including gender balance in institutions of the Montreal Protocol and the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer. Further information will be provided to the parties as the review progresses.

C. Cooperation with the International Plant Protection Convention

9. The Secretariat continues to liaise with the secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) on the basis of the memorandum of understanding signed between the two secretariats in 2012.[2] In recent years, cooperation has involved the submission of comments by members of the Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee to draft documents prepared under the Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments on International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs), including ISPM 15 relevant to methyl bromide.

10. In addition, the cooperation has involved participation by the members of the Technical Options Committee in meetings of the Technical Panel of Phytosanitary Treatments, as well as the submission of a written report by the Secretariat, in consultation with the Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee, on cooperation between the Montreal Protocol and the International Plant Protection Convention, for the consideration of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures at its thirteenth session, held in Rome from 16 to 20 April 2018.[3]

11. In June 2018, the secretariat of IPPC informed the Secretariat that the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures had reviewed at its thirteenth session the draft IPPC strategic framework for 2020–2030, and had requested the secretariat of the Convention to submit it for consultation to contracting parties and various entities, including regional plant protection organizations and relevant international partner organizations. To that end, the Secretariat was invited to submit comments on the draft framework document by 1 September 2018. The Secretariat did so, in consultation with the Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee, and will inform the parties of the availability of the final document once the secretariat of IPPC makes it publicly available.

D. Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

12. Upon invitation from the secretariat of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, in June 2018 the Secretariat reviewed and provided comments on the draft "Global Mercury Assessment 2018: Summary for Policy Makers". The report is a response to the request by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (now the United Nations

[1] EMG was established in 2001 pursuant to General Assembly resolution 53/242 to enhance inter-agency coordination in the field of environment and human settlements. Part of its mandate is to support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by enhancing United Nations system-wide collaboration and promoting coherent responses on environmental matters.

[2] https://www.ippc.int/static/media/uploads/mou_btwn_ozone_&_ippc_signed.pdf.

[3] https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/85581/.

Environment Assembly)[4] to update the Global Mercury Assessment 2013 within six years. The final report is expected to be available by the end of 2018 and the Secretariat will inform the parties of its availability.

E. Global Pact for the Environment

13. By its resolution 72/277, adopted on 10 May 2018, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its seventy-third session "a technical and evidence-based report that identifies and assesses possible gaps in international environmental law and environment-related instruments with a view to strengthening their implementation".[5] By the same resolution, the General Assembly decided to establish an ad hoc open-ended working group to consider the report and discuss possible options to address such gaps. The working group will also consider, if deemed necessary, the scope, parameters and feasibility of an international instrument, with a view to making recommendations, which may include the convening of an intergovernmental conference to adopt an international instrument. The working group is open to participation by all States Members of the United Nations and all members of specialized agencies. It held an organizational session from 5 to 7 September 2018 and will hold a number of substantive sessions in Nairobi. The dates for the substantive sessions that were agreed at the organizational session are as follows: the first substantive session will be held from 14 to 18 January 2019. Unless otherwise decided by the ad hoc open-ended working group, a second substantive session of three to five days duration will be held beginning on 18 March 2019 and a third substantive session of three to five days duration will be held beginning on 20 May 2019.

14. The preparatory work in response to resolution 72/277 is being undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme, which is preparing the report of the Secretary-General. It has also invited secretariats of the multilateral environmental agreements to participate in initial discussions on the preparation of the report. To that end, the Ozone Secretariat participated in a conference call on 27 August 2018 with representatives of the agreements and with the consultants assisting in the preparation of the report to consider the following questions: possible regulatory and governance gaps in the legal regimes of the respective multilateral environmental agreements; existing cooperative arrangements with other multilateral environmental agreements addressing similar or related issues, and how overlaps are addressed and synergies harnessed; and possible issues with the current system of international environmental governance. The Secretariat has expressed interest in participating in the substantive discussions of the working group in order to keep the parties informed of developments in this area.

F. Cooling for All: report launch

15. On 16 July 2018, Sustainable Energy for All, under its Cooling for All initiative, released a report entitled "Chilling Prospects: Providing Sustainable Cooling for All", which quantifies the growing risks and assesses the opportunities of the global cooling challenge. Access to cooling is a fundamental issue of equity, and links to several sustainable development goals, including poverty eradication, human health, food security and ensuring productive economies. The report shows that there are over 1.1 billion people globally who face immediate risks from lack of access to cooling. Such risks are both a development and climate change issue. The Secretariat has been participating in the Global Panel on Cooling for All on the preparation of the report.

G. Public consultation on the evaluation of the ozone regulation by the European Commission

16. At the invitation of the European Commission, the Secretariat participated in the online evaluation of European Union regulation (EC) No. 1005/2009 on substances that deplete the ozone layer (the ozone regulation). The purpose of the evaluation was to examine the actual implementation and performance of the ozone regulation. The evaluation was part of the Commission's public consultation, which consisted of a questionnaire and was expected to provide the Commission with valuable input concerning data and views on the implementation of the ozone regulation.

H. Carbon offsetting for 2017

17. As part of its continuing efforts to maintain climate neutrality, the Secretariat has, for the fourth year running, initiated the process of offsetting the greenhouse gas emissions created during the

[4] Decision 27/12: Chemicals and waste management, 2013.

[5] Towards a Global Pact for the Environment: http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/72/277.

meetings held and operations conducted under the Montreal Protocol in the past year (in this case 2017).

18. The Secretariat's carbon footprint for 2017 was equivalent to 1,336 tons of carbon dioxide, the greenhouse gas emissions associated with travel to the meetings for all participants, including travel to assessment panel meetings and related operations during the year.

19. The Secretariat will offset the carbon footprint through the United Nations online voluntary offsetting platform[6] administered by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The platform features projects certified by the Convention that reduce, avoid or remove greenhouse gas emissions from the atmosphere. The projects are implemented in developing countries.

I. World Ozone Day 2018

20. The theme for the 2018 International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, to be marked on 16 September, is "Keep Cool and Carry On". The theme is a motivational rallying call urging all stakeholders to carry on with the exemplary work of protecting the ozone layer and the climate under the Montreal Protocol. The theme has two connotations: that the work of protecting the ozone layer also protects climate and that the Montreal Protocol is a "cool" treaty, as exemplified by its outstanding success.

21. The theme in the six official languages of the United Nations is posted on the Secretariat website for wider dissemination,[7] together with communication materials such as posters, videos and social media messages for parties to download and use in their commemorative activities. The message of the United Nations Secretary-General for World Ozone Day 2018 will be shared prior to the day for further dissemination.

22. The Secretariat has provided limited financial assistance to six developing countries as a contribution towards the cost of organizing their national activities to commemorate the day.

III. Secretariat participation in relevant events from May to December 2018

23. Between May and December 2018, the Secretariat undertook or will undertake a number of missions, described below, to further the goals of the Montreal Protocol.

A. Eighty-second meeting of the Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol

24. The Secretariat will participate in the eighty-second meeting of the Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol, to be held in Montreal, Canada, from 3 to 7 December 2018.

B. International Energy Agency Global Conference on Energy Efficiency

25. The Secretariat will participate in the International Energy Agency's third annual Global Conference on Energy Efficiency, to be held in Paris on 25 and 26 October 2018. The Secretariat will deliver a keynote address during the opening of the high-level segment of the conference.

C. Consultations with senior government officials in India

26. The Secretariat will hold consultations on issues related to the implementation of the Montreal Protocol with senior government officials from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in New Delhi on 2 and 3 October 2018.

D. African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and first meeting of the Africa Environment Partnership Platform

27. The Secretariat will participate in the seventh special session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, to be held at the United Nations Headquarters in Nairobi from 17 to 19 September 2018, and in the first session of the Africa Environment Partnership Platform, to be held at the same venue on 20 and 21 September 2018.

[6] https://offset.climateneutralnow.org/.

[7] http://ozone.unep.org/ozone-day/keep-cool-and-carry.

E. World Ozone Day celebrations

28. The Secretariat will participate in a series of events to celebrate World Ozone Day in Tashkent from 13 to 15 September 2018; in Hanoi on 14 September 2018; and in Beijing on 17 September 2018.

F. Montevideo Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law

29. The Secretariat will participate in the first global meeting of national focal points for the Montevideo Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (Montevideo Programme IV), to be held in Geneva from 12 to 14 September 2018. The national focal points at their first global meeting, which is organized by the United Nations Environment Programme as part of its biennial programme of work, will discuss a draft assessment of the fourth programme for the development and periodic review of environmental law in specific programme areas relating to effectiveness of environmental law; conservation, management and sustainable use of natural resources; challenges for environmental law; and relationship with other fields such as human rights and the environment and trade and the environment.

G. Environmental Effects Assessment Panel meeting

30. The Secretariat participated in the Environmental Effects Assessment Panel meeting held in Vermont, United States of America, in September 2018. The meeting was held to finalize the Executive Summary of the Panel's 2018 quadrennial assessment report.

H. Consultations with senior government officials in Albania, the Gambia, Liberia and Sierra Leone

31. The Secretariat held consultations on the ratification of the Kigali Amendment with senior government officials in Albania on 17 and18 May 2018 and the Gambia, Liberia and Sierra Leone from 6 to 14 August 2018.

I. Scientific Assessment Panel meeting

32. The Secretariat participated in the meeting of the Scientific Assessment Panel held in Les Diablerets, Switzerland, from 16 to 20 July 2018. The meeting was held to finalize the executive summary of the Panel's 2018 quadrennial assessment report.

J. Network meetings of ozone officers

33. In the period between June and December 2018, representatives of the Secretariat either participated or will participate in the following network meetings of ozone officers, organized by the United Nations Environment Programme under its OzonAction Compliance Assistance Programme:

(a) Joint network meeting of national ozone officers from countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in Quito from 1 to 3 November 2018;

(b) Annual meeting of national ozone officers from countries in Europe and Central Asia, to be held in Antalya, Turkey, on 11 and 12 October 2018;

(c) Network and thematic meetings of national ozone officers from countries in the Pacific Islands, to be held in Bangkok from 27 to 29 September 2018;

(d) Regional network meeting of national ozone officers from Latin America and Spanish-speaking Caribbean countries, held in Antigua, Guatemala, on 25 and 26 June 2018.

34. At the above meetings, the Secretariat presented or will present updates on recent developments under the Montreal Protocol, focusing on the Kigali Amendment, the process and status of its ratification, the benefits of ratification and other key issues related to the Amendment. The Secretariat also addressed or will address the status of compliance with the Montreal Protocol by parties in the various regions and it consulted or will consult bilaterally with parties, offering advice on matters of interest.